

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13, 18-20, and 22-28 were previously pending in the application. Claims 22-23 are canceled, and claims 21 and 24 are amended herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-8, 10-11, 13, 18-20, and 24-28 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 2 of the final office action, the Examiner rejected claims 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Best. In paragraph 3, the Examiner objected to claims 23-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In paragraph 4, the Examiner allowed claims 1-8, 10-11, 13, 18-19, and 25-28. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 23. As such, currently amended claim 20 is equivalent to previously pending claim 23 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 20 is allowable. Since claim 24 depends from claim 20, it is further submitted that claim 24 is also allowable.

On page 3, the Examiner asked whether an IDS was filed on 7/28/03. In response, the Applicant submits that an IDS was filed on 7/28/03. A copy of that IDS accompanies this amendment. Since two of the three cited references are documents available at the PTO, we are enclosing only a copy of the paper that was cited as the third reference in that IDS. The Applicant requests acknowledgment of that IDS by the Examiner.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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